



News Release

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WINDFALL SUPPLY OF TREE SEEDLINGS OFFERED

Recent flooding along coastal Georgia has forced cancellation of planned tree plantings there, making available a large supply of superior Georgia Forestry Commission seedlings. The three most sought after varieties, which were previously "sold out" due to a very large order, are now being offered to Georgia landowners.

"While this is devastating for landowners who are dealing with flooded property, it is a windfall for others," said Jeff Fields, Reforestation Chief for the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC). "These genetically improved pines are always the first to go because they grow faster, provide more volume and have superior growth characteristics. They won't last long."

Fields said the newly available supply is best suited for the coastal plain and lower Piedmont areas. The selection includes GFC's most popular variety of pine seedlings, known as "Georgia Giants." The trees produce 54% more volume per acre than other varieties at age six. Fields said the Giants are a good choice for landowners who want to get more wood of a higher class, such as chip and saw, when they thin their timber stand. The "Elite Straight Loblolly" is a mix of three of the straightest, most fusiform rust-resistant families, and the "Pitch Canker Resistant Slash" is fast growing, with pitch canker resistance proven by the USDA Forest Service's disease resistance screening center.

"The Georgia Forestry Commission is part of two tree improvement cooperatives, which enable development of these superior varieties," said Fields. "While this unexpected supply is best suited for the coastal plain and some parts of the lower Piedmont, we have seedlings for everyone. The "Third Cycle Piedmont Loblolly" is still in stock, along with hardwoods such as white oak and dogwood." Fields added that anyone interested in these varieties should act quickly.

To order seedlings, go to the GFC's online store at www.gaseedlings.org. Buyers may also contact their local GFC office or the Flint River Nursery at 229-268-7308. Discounts are available for large orders.

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